

Message Text

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11/44

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-20 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01

AID-20 EB-11 OMB-01 TRSE-00 NEA-11 DRC-01 /134 W

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R 251219Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1011

INFO AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

AMCONSUL TANGIER

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MO

SUBJ: KING'S SPEECH ON MUSLIM NEW YEAR

1. IN 20 MINUTE SPEECH ON EVE OF MUSLIM NEW YEAR, KING HASSAN ANNOUNCED THAT REGIME, HAVING ESTABLISHED PRESTIGE ABROAD AND WITH FOUNDATIONS FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT LAID, WOULD CONCENTRATE IN COMING YEAR ON SOCIAL ISSUES. BEFORE END OF FEBRUARY, KING SAID, NEW LAWS GOVERNING SYSTEM OF JUSTICE IN MOROCCO WOULD BE PROMULGATED. WILL START WITH CLEAN SLATE IN THIS AREA AND CONSTRUCT SYSTEM ANEW, CHANGING ORIENTATION OF OLD STATUTES TO CONFORM WITH ECONOMIC, RELIGIOUS AND SOCIAL POSITION OF COUNTRY. ALSO, WILL BE REFORM OF EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM, DEALING FIRST WITH HIGHER EDUCATION AND THEN WITH SECONDARY AND PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

2. NEW YEAR WILL BE GOOD ONE FOR ISLAMIC AND ARAB WORLDS, KING ASSERTED. ARABS AND MUSLIMS HAVE RECOVERED PRESTIGE AND HAVE BECOME BLOCs TO BE RECKONED WITH IN INTERNATIONAL SPHERE.

3. COMMENT: JUDICIAL REFORM HAS BEEN MAJOR PREOCCUPATION OF COUCIL OF MINISTERS IN PAST MONTH. SPECIFICS NOT YET AVAILABLE

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ABLE BUT WE GATHER INCREASE IN COMPETENCE OF LOCAL

COURTS, CREATION OF FOURTH COURT OF APPEALS AT
TANGIER, AND AMENDMENT OF STATUTE GOVERNING CONDUCT OF
DEFENSE LAWYERS ARE AMONG CHANGES CONTEMPLATED. LAST CHANGE
WILL REPORTEDLY MAKE IT EASIER FOR A PRESIDING JUDGE TO
DISMISS AN ATTORNEY FROM A PROCEEDING IF HIS CONDUCT IS
DEEMED IMPROPER. NOT CLEAR WHAT KING HAS IN MIND WITH
REGARD TO REFORM OF EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM.
NEUMANN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PENAL SYSTEM, EDUCATION, PFOR, INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS, SOCIAL SERVICES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974RABAT00351
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: RABAT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740115/aaaaanvi.tel
Line Count: 69
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 AUG 2002 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <04-Sep-2002 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KING'S SPEECH ON MUSLIM NEW YEAR
TAGS: PFOR, MO, (HASSAN)
To: SECSTATE WASHDC CASABLANCA TANGIER
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005